

# RESTORING HEALTHY FORESTS FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 19, 2013*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1526) to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from National Forest System land, to provide a temporary extension of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, this bill is deeply disappointing. It takes an issue on which there are areas of agreement and rather than working to fulfill those opportunities, it puts forth legislation that is deeply harmful both to the process and the policy. I strongly support providing long-term fiscal stability for counties who have relied on federal timber revenues. This is an important issue for many counties in Oregon. I appreciate that this legislation provides another year of funding for these counties through the county payments program.

The rest of this legislation, however, is concerning enough that I am forced to vote against it. It removes valuable protections for our forests and watersheds and puts in place artificial logging requirements that fail to account for local needs, ecological and geographic characteristics, or realistic, long-term timber management goals. The bill also places more communities at risk from fire or erosion danger by opening up areas for development and logging that put people closer to high risk wildfire zones and decrease the ecosystem's ability to handle flooding.

Congress should help provide long term fiscal stability to counties that are largely made up of federal lands. That is something we can all agree on. However, I would hope that we could do so in a way that maintains the basic environmental safeguards we depend on to keep our forests and our watersheds healthy, that preserves the investments we have made in outdoor recreation opportunities, and that helps our communities be safe, healthy, and economically secure.

## RECOGNIZING LILIA "LILY" PEREZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2013*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Lilia "Lily" Perez for her dedication to the City of Laredo and the 4th Precinct of Webb County.

Miss Lilia "Lily" Perez was born March 11, 1932 and passed away on September 11, 2013. "Lily", as she was affectionately known by her friends and loved ones was a lifelong resident of Laredo, Texas.

During her lifetime she was involved in retail business as an employee for S.H. Kress De-

partment Store and as a manager with J.C. Penney. Miss Perez also became one of the most recognizable figures in her parish of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. For many years, her determination and leadership helped make numerous parish fundraisers major successes. She was also passionately involved in the collection and distribution of food and other necessities to the families and people of need in the area.

Apart from her services to the community through her parish and the retail sector, she became the first woman to be the Commissioner of Webb County's 4th Precinct. She proudly served from November 8, 1982 to December 31, 1984. To thank her for this great accomplishment and her activities as a humanitarian, Webb County officials named a neighborhood center or "concilio" after her. The Lilia Perez Neighborhood Center offers vital services and counseling to the community such as, utility assistance, rental assistance, grocery and meal distribution.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, accomplishments, and commitment of the late Lilia "Lily" Perez. Thank you for this time.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. MARIANO RIVERA

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2013*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Mariano Rivera. Originally from Panama, Mr. Rivera has spent 19 years working in my district, bringing great joy to the people of the Bronx and to Yankees fans around the world with his unparalleled success closing games for the New York Yankees. During his time with the Yankees he showed himself to be one of the greatest pitchers of his generation and struck fear into opponents who had to face him.

During his 19 seasons in the Bronx with the Yankees, Mr. Rivera has been the most successful closer in baseball history, becoming the all time saves leader and leading the league in saves three times. For much of his career his fearsome cutter meant that the Yankees were playing shorter games than everyone else. Once "Enter Sandman" played and Mr. Rivera strode onto the field, everyone knew the game was over. His mere appearance deflated the other team and the opposing players were often defeated before he threw a single pitch.

The length and quality of Mr. Rivera's career is evidenced by his 13 All-Star Game appearances and the five Relief Man Awards he won over an eleven-year period stretching from 1999 to 2009. However, as impressive as his individual accomplishments are, baseball is a team game and his most important role was helping to lead the Yankees to five World Series Championships.

Given the high quality of his pitching during the regular season it may be hard to believe, but Mr. Rivera was even better in the postseason. During the 16 postseason appearances that the Yankees made during his time with the team, Mr. Rivera accumulated a miniscule ERA of 0.70 over 141 innings. His importance to the success of the team in the

postseason was recognized by voters when he was awarded the World Series MVP in 1999 and the ALCS MVP in 2003, an impressive accomplishment for a closer who, while often pitching at the most critical moments, is only in the game for the final inning or two.

However, he did not merely pitch in the Bronx, he also worked hard to improve life for people in New York and back in his native Panama. Through his charitable foundation he has focused on improving the lives of children in need by improving their communities and offering scholarships so that children from underprivileged families can have better opportunities.

As his magnificent baseball career comes to an end at the end of this season, I am sure that he will continue to be a positive contributor to his community in a multitude of new ways. It has been an honor to have him work in my district and I look forward to his continued success.

## IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICORPS

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 20, 2013*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of twenty years of service to our communities from the AmeriCorps program. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating with AmeriCorps members past and present the many lives changed and neighborhoods improved through the immensely important work of the AmeriCorps volunteers.

Twenty years ago, on September 21, President Clinton signed into law the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. This legislation created the Corporation for National and Community Service, and under it the three CNCS administered programs: Senior Corps, Learn and Serve America, and AmeriCorps. I was fortunate enough to be at the White House for the inception of AmeriCorps, and am thankful for this opportunity to celebrate its achievements over the last twenty years.

Since 1993, more than 800,000 AmeriCorps members have contributed more than 1 billion hours in service across the country. In my hometown of Sacramento, we currently have 144 full time AmeriCorps volunteers who serve Sacramento in a multitude of ways. AmeriCorps volunteers serve in our schools and in the aftermath of disasters. I would like to thank all of our local AmeriCorps volunteers for their continued commitment to improving our community—one neighborhood at a time.

In recent years, we as a country have faced natural disasters from Hurricane Sandy to the tornadoes in Oklahoma. Through these moments, the American people have responded with a spirit of service and ingenuity. We must keep investing in service and volunteer programs, to help to prepare us to handle unforeseen crises. Furthermore, community service is a proven pathway to employment. As communities recover from the recent recession, the skills learned and networks created through service have helped many Americans return to full time employment. AmeriCorps has consistently leveraged a small amount of